

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 8

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2004 Regular Session  
4lr2829  
CF 4lr2830

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By: **Senator McFadden (By Request - Baltimore City Administration)**

Introduced and read first time: February 19, 2004

Assigned to: Rules

Re-referred to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs, February 23, 2004

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Committee Report: Favorable

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 22, 2004

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RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Compact for Sound Government**

3 FOR the purpose of providing that the General Assembly supports the establishment  
4 of an ongoing mechanism for agreements between the State and its political  
5 subdivisions that improve the life chances of certain populations, save public  
6 resources by avoiding certain predictable long-term State expenditures, and  
7 redirect a share of certain savings to ongoing efforts to improve the lives and  
8 futures of vulnerable children and families at risk; and generally relating to the  
9 establishment of a mechanism for agreement between the State and its political  
10 subdivisions to improve life changes for certain populations.

11 WHEREAS, It costs less to invest in opportunity than to pay for failure; and

12 WHEREAS, It is far less expensive to use our scarce public resources to pay for  
13 drug treatment rather than for foster care, for preventive health care rather than for  
14 emergency room care, and for an adequate public education rather than for detention  
15 and incarceration; and

16 WHEREAS, Many jurisdictions across the State have been working to improve  
17 the life chances of vulnerable citizens by developing and funding initiatives that  
18 create opportunities and avoid negative outcomes; and

19 WHEREAS, The successful implementation of these initiatives reduces future  
20 liabilities on government for deep-end or remedial services; and

21 WHEREAS, Currently all such savings to the State revert to the State General  
22 Fund; now, therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the  
2 General Assembly supports the establishment of an ongoing mechanism for  
3 agreements between the State and its 24 political subdivisions that:

4 (a) improve the life chances of five specific populations:

5 (1) young families in crisis;

6 (2) children entering school unprepared to learn and to succeed;

7 (3) disconnected youth at risk of harming others or causing harm to  
8 themselves;

9 (4) recovering substance abusers with dependent children; and

10 (5) ex-offenders returning to society; and

11 (b) save scarce public resources by avoiding the predictable long-term State  
12 expenditures associated with continued poor outcomes for the populations listed  
13 above; and

14 (c) redirect a share of savings accrued by the agreements for ongoing efforts to  
15 improve the lives and futures of vulnerable children and families at risk in the  
16 political subdivisions where these efforts are underway; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That agreements established in accordance with this Resolution  
18 would authorize the return of a significant portion of State General Fund savings and  
19 any federal savings or increased revenue maximization allowed by law to the political  
20 subdivisions of the State for further investment in opportunity, prevention, or early  
21 intervention for the populations listed above to generate future savings; and be it  
22 further

23 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of  
24 Legislative Services to the Honorable Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Governor of Maryland;  
25 the Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; and  
26 the Honorable Michael E. Busch, Speaker of the House of Delegates.